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U. S. Self-Sufficient In Defense Chemicals, Detroit Parley Told

New Production Methods Outlined by Fink Of Columbia

By THOMAS R. HENRY, Star Staff Correspondent.

DETROIT, Sept. 11.—The United States, through recent scientific advances, today is self-sufficient in the essential chemicals for national defense.

This was stressed before the American Chemical Society here today by Dr. Colin C. Fink, professor of electrochemistry at Columbia University.

Of the utmost importance to America, Prof. Fink said, are antimony, chromium, manganese, mercury, nickel, tin and tungsten. The essential supplies for American industry in the past have come from abroad.

First in significance, he said, is manganese. The finest quality of this element is necessary for dry batteries and flashlights. A slightly poorer quality is essential for steel manufacture. Even pig iron requires a low grade of the element.

Problem Solved.

"Personally," said Prof. Fink, "we have been engaged in the manganese problem since 1917, at the time of the first world conflict. Recently we have succeeded in developing an electrochemical method for the extraction of relatively pure manganese metals from low-grade American ores. A plant is now in operation at Knoxville. We dissolve the manganese out of the ore, then plate it out as a pure metal on the cathodes of an electrolytic cell.

Among the basic self-defense weaknesses of the United States up to the present, Dr. Fink said, tin has been one of the most outstanding. "Some years ago," he declared, "we tackled the tin problem. We found that by changing over from the customary processes to an electrochemical process we could conserve over half of the tin used in the old process. Perhaps some day we shall make tin cans without tin, just as at present we are making 90 per cent of the tin cans used in this country without tin but out of pure aluminum."

Nevada Can Supply More.

In an emergency, Dr. Fink declared, the tungsten deposits of Nevada can be increased many times. Furthermore, he declared, "tungsten's sister metal, molybdenum, can be substituted in many essential steels. The United States has the largest molybdenum mine in the world, supplying 85 per cent of the world's requirements.

The United States, Prof. Fink said, is sadly deficient in nickel, but fortunately the world's largest supplies are in Canada. This country can always get plenty and, in fact, controls the factories essential for processing the element.

"Of all the 20-odd metals that are now required in warfare," Dr. Fink declared, "no single country is well supplied. Our own country is fortunate in possessing ample supplies of most of them. As to the seven in which we are deficient, the metallurgists of America can be counted on to meet any emergency through the utilization of low-grade ores, or through substitution of other metals. Finally, they may meet the emergency through radical departures, such as has been exemplified in the introduction of wireless transmission in place of miles of copper cables, or the use of paper containers in place of metal ones."

Dry Water Gives Science New Chemical Curiosity

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE, Associated Press Science Editor.

DETROIT, Sept. 11.—Dry water, a new chemical curiosity, was described to the American Chemical Society today by Dr. Irving Langmuir, famous American Nobel prize winner in physics.

"The water is dry, only in one way, that no moisture evaporates from its surface. The feat as performed by Dr. Langmuir, however, is something new in science.

This dry water showed up in his experiments with monomolecular films, which are so thin that they have only two dimensions, length and breadth. The films are a single layer of invisible molecules, spread over the surface of water.

Dies Committee Clears Boyer of Propaganda

By the Associated Press.

Carl Boyer, New York publicity man, has been exonerated by both the Dies Committee and the Justice Department on charges by Representative Patman, Democrat of Texas that he was a Nazi propagandist.

The committee formally adopted yesterday a subcommittee's report "fully exonerating" Mr. Boyer of Representative Patman's allegations. Last July 16, the Justice De-

Teacher Quits Post; Calls Flag Salute 'War Preparation'

By the Associated Press.

CARNEGIE, Pa., Sept. 11.—Because the flag salute is required at Carnegie Tech High School this year, Walter B. Sterrett, 64-year-old history teacher, resigned, saying, "The salute is a spiritual preparation for war."

"My heart is with my country," but it isn't in teaching a flag salute to children," he said. "I would rather be dead than have to admit to myself that I had coaxed children into war."

partment announced that its investigation of the charges "disclosed no evidence whatsoever" that Mr. Boyer had engaged in any un-American activity.

Leaders Make Plans To Adjourn Between Sept. 21 and 28

Deficiency Bill to Pay Cost of Draft Only Major Legislation Remaining

By the Associated Press.

Administration leaders, acting on President Roosevelt's assurance that he had no further major proposals at this time, made plans today to adjourn Congress until January some time between September 21 and 28.

Only one important piece of legislation has yet to be started through Congress—a billion-dollar deficiency bill to pay the first year's

cost of conscription—and leaders felt that action on this, on the pending tax and conscription bills, and on remaining minor measures, could be completed in about two weeks.

Although there has been much discussion of taking merely a recess until after the November elections, administration supporters were reported to have concluded, after conferences with the President, that it would be wiser to seek an adjournment.

Their decision was based, it was said, on two considerations: First, Mr. Roosevelt was reported to have pointed out that he could call Congress back into session if an emergency arose.

Second, an adjournment would obviate the embarrassment of explaining to the home folk how the legislators could afford to take time out for a political campaign during an emergency which would require their presence in Washington again immediately after the election. There also was the little-men-

tioned factor that the legislators would receive no mileage for their trip home and return, if a recess were taken. Mileage payments would be in order, however, if Congress adjourned.

House Majority Leader Martin said he was opposed to adjournment, but added he could see no reason why a recess could not be taken until after the election.

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